

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 26-36 and 42-53 have been originally allowed in the present application.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 43 and 47 correspond to the count of the interference with U.S. patent No. 6,150,373. Claims 3-6, 9-16, 26-36, 42, 44-46 and 48-53 were deemed patentably distinct from the count and not part of the interference.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 43 and 47 were cancelled and newly added claims 54-60 were submitted in its place.

The interference was re-declared with claims 54-56 and 58-60.

During the interference, Applicants filed a motion to add claims 61-80. The Board only added claims 67 and 75.

The Board held that claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 43, 47, 54, 55, 58, 67 and 75 were deemed unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 56, 59 and 60 were determined patentable by the Board.

Status of Claims

Claims 3, 4-5, 10, 12, 14-15, 26-36, 46, 48-49, and 56 have been amended.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 17-25, 37-41, 43, 47, 54-55, 57-58, 67 and 75 have been canceled.

Claims 61-66, 68-74, and 76-80 have been not entered.

Claims 3-6, 9-16, 26-36, 42, 44-46, 48-53, 56, 59, and 60 are now pending for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 3, 4-5, 10, 12, 14-15, 26-36, 46, 48-49, and 56 have been amended to provide proper dependency and antecedent basis. No new matter is added. For the reasons that follow, Applicants believe all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Miscellaneous Communication

The communication states that pursuant to the Board decision of 5-6-04 on the Interference No. 104,798, Applicants are entitled to a patent containing a claim to the subject matter of the amended Claims 56, 59 and 60.

Applicants were requested to amend Claim 56 into independent form. Applicants have amended the claim as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicants have canceled Claims 67 and 75.

Conclusion

Applicants believe all claims are now in condition for allowance. Should there be any issues that have not been addressed to the Examiners satisfaction, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due in connection with this response. If any fees are due in connection with this response, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 161445.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 17, 2008

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